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and character in the world," must have found their origin in writing this portion of the book. However, they are amply refuted by the narrative itself.

The volume is illustrated with reproductions of the photographs of the author, his mother, and members of his family, and of Professor and Mrs. M. H. B. Burkett, Revs. W. E. Munsey, Jno. H. Brunner and Abe Mulkey and Gov. W. G. Brownlow. A few crude pen sketches are also included.

E. W. WINKLER.

A Thumb-Nail History of the City of Houston, Texas, from its founding in 1836 to the year 1912. By Dr. S. O. Young. (Houston: 1912. 8vo, Pp. 184.)

This book was written, the author says, "more for my own pleasure than for anything else." He waives all claim to literary ability, but assures the reader that "every precaution has been taken to guard against error. Wherever possible, I have consulted original documents and newspapers."

The subject matter is divided into twelve chapters, each devoted to some phase of the city's activities and tracing its history from the inception of that interest to the present. Chapter 1 (Pp. 7-43) gives an account of the founding of Houston and outlines its municipal history; Chapter 2 (44-62) tells of the building activities, private and public, at different periods, and of the organization of fire companies; Chapter 3 (63-84) does the same for railroad building, and gives some notes on the lawyers and doctors; Chapter 4 (85-93), newspapers; Chapter 5 (94-108), banks and trust companies; Chapter 6 (109-119), churches; Chapter 7 (120-130), military companies; Chapter 8 (131-138), manufacturing; Chapter 9 (139-150), literary clubs, public library and organized labor; Chapter 10 (151-169), cotton, lumber, oil, rice and insurance; Chapter 11 (170-175), telegraph lines, telephones, and electric lighting; Chapter 12 (176-184), William M. Rice and the Rice Institute.

The book is far from being a complete history of Houston. A large portion of the text is devoted to a description of the city and its business institutions in 1912. There is enough history, however, to indicate the leading rôle Houston has played in the

business enterprise of the State, and the wonderful transformation within the last few years of the old Houston into a modern city.

The absence of any notice of the schools, street railway, hospitals and other charities is remarkable. On page 85 the statement is made that, prior to the establishment of the *Telegraph* in 1835, Texas had no publication worthy of being called a newspaper. Coming from one who has been connected with newspapers, this remark is all the more surprising. Further down the page it is stated that the *Telegraph* was begun at Columbia, while as a matter of fact it was begun at San Felipe. It is also stated that its first number appeared on October 10, 1835, "the very day that the Texans, under Fannin, stormed and took Goliad." Fannin was not at Goliad on that date. On page 88 the statement is made that the tri-weekly *Morning Star* was begun "in the early fifties." This is, perhaps, a misprint, for "in the early forties," for the *Morning Star* was begun in April, 1839.

The illustrations include Sam Houston, after whom the city was named, the Allens, founders of the city, W. J. Hutchins, T. W. House, Sr., Charles Stewart, Paul Bremond, William R. Baker and others, prominent in the city's development.

The volume has neither table of contents nor index.

E. W. WINKLER.

Revised Civil Statutes of the State of Texas, adopted at the Regular Session of the Thirty-second Legislature, 1911. Published by authority of the State of Texas. Austin, 1912. 8vo, Pp. 90+1996. After much delay, these statutes were delivered about the end of July.

"Geographic Influences in the Development of Texas" is the title of an article published by Dr. Frederic W. Simonds in the May number of *The Journal of Geography* (University of Wisconsin).

LETTER FROM A BEXAR PRISONER.—The *San Antonio Express* of September 15, 1912, contains a letter from S. A. Maverick to General Waddy Thompson, dated "Castle de Perote Decr 5, '43" and reproduces the first page in facsimile. The letter contains

some interesting passages. The date, however, is incorrect; in all probability the correct date is January 5, 1843. The Diary of Judge Hutchinson, a fellow prisoner, printed in *THE QUARTERLY*, XIII, 294-313, furnishes several reasons for this conjecture.

E. W. W.

The growing interest in the late O. Henry is shown by the recent appearance of the following articles by Harry P. Steger: "Some of O. Henry's letters and the *Plunkville Patriot*," in the *Independent*, September 5, 1912, p. 543-47; "O. Henry—New Facts About the Great Author," in the *Cosmopolitan*, October, 1912, p. 955-57. "Recollections of O. Henry" by George P. Warner appeared in *The Texas Magazine*, August, 1912, p. 322.

A Family of Millers and Stewarts. By Dr. Robert F. Miller. Printed privately, 1909. Folio, Pp. 64. This volume contains a good biographical sketch of the Rev. James Weston Miller, D. D., a nestor of the Presbyterian Church in Texas. The sermon preached by Dr. Miller at the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Synod of Texas, in November, 1876, is reproduced.

The Call of the New South. Edited by James E. McCulloch. Nashville: Southern Sociological Congress, 1912. 8vo, Pp. 387. The above title has been given to the addresses delivered at the initial meeting of the Southern Sociological Congress, held at Nashville, May 7-10, 1912.

The following articles have recently appeared in *The Texas Magazine* (Houston): *The Bohemian Farmers of Texas*, by LeRoy Hodges (June); *The Texas Overland Mail*, by Mrs. Lipscomb Norvell (July); *Japanese Farmers in Texas*, by W. Jett Lauck (September).